REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

By

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WATER CONDITIONS

At the end of Water Year 2006 (October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006) California statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 140% of average to date; runoff, 170% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 120% of average for the date. The Northern Sierra, 8-Station Precipitation Index, seasonal total as of September 30 was 80.1", which is 160% of a normal Water Year (50.0"). (During Water Year 2005, the 8-Station Index had 57.5", or 115% of the seasonal normal.) Water Year 2006 was the fifth wettest year for the 8-Station precipitation record (1921-2006). Most locations in Northern and Central California, as well as the Pacific Northwest, also had above average seasonal precipitation. However, south of the Tehachapi Mountains, rainfall in portions of Southern California was significantly below normal, as was much of the American Southwest. Severe drought continues in portions of Arizona, which had one the driest winters on record, although the summer monsoon has brought some relief.

The median Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley 2006 Water Year Type indices were both classified as "Wet." On June 13, the date of the last forecast for the season, the projected median April-July runoff indicated the following percentages of historical average for the State's water supply basins: Shasta through American, 185%; Mokelumne through San Joaquin, 180%; and the Kings through Kern, 175%.

Except for some interior valley locations, temperatures across most of California during September were cooler than normal. Extended periods of low-pressure troughs, onshore flow, and a mid-summer type marine layer resulted in San Francisco's average monthly temperature being a full 4 degrees (F) below normal, and San Jose and Eureka being 2.3 degrees and 2.2 degrees below normal, respectively. San Diego was 1.4 degrees below normal, and Sacramento was 1.7 degrees below normal.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 09/30/2006 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)

	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2005 - 2006 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2006 - 2007
Eureka	0.13	9	0.20	14	0
Redding	0.04	5	0.02	3	0
Sacramento	0.00	0	0.10	21	0
San Jose	0.00	0	0.01	3	0
Fresno	0.00	0	0.04	14	0
Bakersfield	0.00	0	0.09	39	0
Los Angeles	0.00	0	0.29	63	0
San Diego	0.05	15	0.11	33	0

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 09/30/2006 midnight

Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,795	1,706	105	2,448	73	---	653
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,205	2,827	113	4,552	70	-1,347	1,347
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,833	2,298	123	3,538	80	-517	705
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	697	591	118	966	72	-214	269
Folsom Lake	American	639	563	113	977	65	-338	338
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	2,056	1,307	157	2,420	85	-217	364
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,768	1,357	130	2,030	87	-4	262
Lake McClure	Merced	736	464	159	1,025	72	-116	289
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	240	198	122	520	46	-280	280
Pine Flat Res	Kings	465	359	129	1,000	47	-535	535
Isabella	Kern	236	176	134	568	42	-68	332
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,313	1,010	130	2,039	64	---	726

The latest National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center long-range weather forecast maps for October, issued September 30, suggests average precipitation for most of California, except for above average in the southeast portion of the State. Much of the Southwestern United States is also forecasted to have above average precipitation. Temperatures are forecasted to be average for all of California and the American West.

FLOODPLAIN MAPPING (LOWER FEATHER)

Both Yuba and Sutter Counties have received their Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps for review based on the Lower Feather River Floodplain Mapping Study completed by the Corps of Engineers. The 30-day review period and Final Coordination Meeting has been completed for both counties. This review period will now be followed by a mandatory 90-day appeals period. FEMA has scheduled 3 community workshops on October 5, 10, and 17 for Yuba County for this appeals period. With no major issues, the final FIRM maps could be issued in about 8 months following this appeals period. With substantial issues to be addressed, it could easily take up to another year before these maps would be issued and become effective.

It should be noted that FEMA has issued these maps providing detailed elevation data for only the leveed channels. Overland flooded areas are identified using only Zone A designations. The study, as completed, provided detailed floodplain elevation data for both channel and the overland areas.

FLOODPLAIN MAPPING (UPPER FEATHER)

The basic hydrologic and hydraulic modeling for the Upper Feather River has been completed. Freeboard appears adequate; however, there are identified geotechnical issues with these levees. In addition no evidence has been found to confirm that the Upper Feather River levees have been certified and reviewed against the FEMA 44 CFR 65.10 levee criteria. In essence, the UFR levees were “grandfathered” onto the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Resultantly, it will be necessary to evaluate levee system failures that will result in mapping of overland floodplain areas. DWR is currently working with FEMA and the Corps of Engineers to establish a systematic process for assessing levee failure conditions. This process is intended to be applicable to other study areas as well. The Upper Feather River Floodplain Mapping Study is expected to be completed early next spring.

PL 84-99 REHABILITATION AND 2006 AYRES CRITICAL EROSION SITES

The Board paid the Corps $13,264,000 in September to begin construction on 11 Order 1 (critical damage in an urban area) sites in the Sacramento Valley. Construction is scheduled for October through December. The remaining 27 Order 1 sites are planned for repair by DWR, the Corps, and Brannan Andrus Levee Maintenance District. In addition, 11 Order 2 sites will be repaired by the Corps with State funds.

The initial Ayres survey for 2006 identified an additional 22 critical sites. The Corps identified 14 sites it will plan to repair with State funds under the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. The sites proposed by the Corps are under review by DWR. Sites not repaired by the Corps will be planned for repair by DWR.

A meeting of the Executive Oversight Committee will be convened on October 3 to brief the resources agencies and secure commitments for expedited permitting and consultation under the Endangered Species Act.